



Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of the Woodbury Heritage Society



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Board Members:

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Vice-President: Bill Schrankler
Secretary: Dick Bielenberg
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Le Dîner en Blanc

SPECIAL discount for Woodbury Heritage Society members!

The **2nd** Annual Elegant French Picnic
Le Dîner en Blanc
Fundraising event to save the Miller Barn

Sunday July 21, 2019
4:30 pm - 7 pm

Held at the Miller Barn location in Valley Creek Park
(corner of Settler's Ridge and Valley Creek)

This is a truly magical event! This fun and exciting fundraising event to save the Miller Barn will be held in a stunning tent, with decorations, lights, tables and chairs, all in white. This creates a picturesque ambience in which to dine on a delectable French picnic basket meal, including wine, prepared by the famous **Lake Elmo Inn**. There will also be a captivating auction and great entertainment!

This event is hosted by the "Save the Miller Barn" committee. All attendees are encouraged to dress all in white (including hats) but wearing white is optional.

Ticket prices are \$65 per person, \$120 for a couple, or \$800 for a table of 8. You must be 21 or older to attend this event.

To purchase tickets please contact: joyce_flynn@msn.com.





Leaving a Legacy – Inez Oehlke

(Article originally from Woodbury Magazine, photo by Tate Carlson.)

Inez Oehlke made an incredible life by being a generous, thoughtful and focused philanthropist. She left a lasting impression on Woodbury in her 96 years of life and she continues to make a difference after her passing through a legacy gift to the Woodbury Community Foundation designated to preserve our community's heritage through the Miller Barn project. The funds are held in a special restricted fund for purposes outlined in a letter by Inez and will be released by the Woodbury Community Foundation Board as the plans for the

Miller Barn educational displays and activities become more well defined.

Several members of the Foundation Board had the privilege of getting to know her well over the final years of her life. WCF Board Member and Woodbury Heritage Society Board Member Margaret Wachholz was particularly close to Inez and describes her as the most humble and kindest of folk from Woodbury. "She was soft-spoken, passionate about her faith, dedicated to her family and her community. She was a down-to-earth lady who was pretty unassuming if you were to meet her on the street," said Margaret. "Inez also happened to be the Matriarch of Woodbury, a civic leader and one of the founders of the Woodbury Heritage Society with Woodbury's first Mayor Orville Bielenberg."

In 2013, Inez was among those who helped with the Foundation's History Book by contributing stories about Woodbury's rich history. In May of 2014, Inez was the keynote speaker at the Foundation's 10th Anniversary. She received a standing ovation after she finished her passionate speech with a quote from a Robert Browning poem: "Come, come, come, grow old with me, the best is yet to be."

Inez saw a golden opportunity to use the Miller Barn as a place to preserve and celebrate the city's history, honoring the Native Americans and settlers who gave birth to our community. Inez realized that bringing to life her dream of a heritage park at the Miller Barn site was going to extend beyond her lifetime. During conversations with Jack Lanners, who was then the Chair of the Foundation Board, Inez said she'd like to leave a portion of her estate to fund the fulfillment of her dream. She was inspired by the work Donna Smith-Stafford had done with the Woodbury K-9 Program supported through a fund at the Foundation. The Dick and Diane Hanson Fund for Innovation at the Foundation was another example she admired. She hoped to model her Miller Barn Legacy Fund in a similar manner, relying on the friends she trusted on the Foundation Board to assure they were administered consistent with her wishes. "Inez felt strongly about engaging our community in thoughtful and effective philanthropy during one's lifetime," said Margaret. "I never heard her complain. She always just felt blessed to be in the moment, listen, and love."

We lost Inez in September 2016. Her gift to the Foundation will preserve our community's heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Update on the Miller Barn and the Valley Creek Park

The City of Woodbury staff received a total of four quality proposals and interviewed all four consulting firms with a three-person staff committee. The interview process was competitive and the staff is recommending the selection of Hagen, Christensen & McIlwain Architects (HCM Architects) to provide the architectural and site plan services for this project. The proposal HCM Architects submitted will form the basis for the final contract detailing the services for the project.

At the May 22 City Council meeting, the Council approved staff to move forward and enter into a contract with HCM Architects. The results of this study and the master plan will be used to determine the budget for the development of this community park in 2021.

Preservation Design Works (PVN) is part of this consulting team, which brings experience in historic architecture, evaluation, and project management. PVN will provide a historic preservation assessment of the Miller Barn, guide the potential use of the MN Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant, and has past experience working with the Rehabilitation Standards of the Secretary of the Interiors as part of the Needs Study for the project. PVN will present at the July 24, 2019, Council Workshop and explain potential opportunities and future restrictions of using legacy funds for this park project.



Heritage House Open Dates:

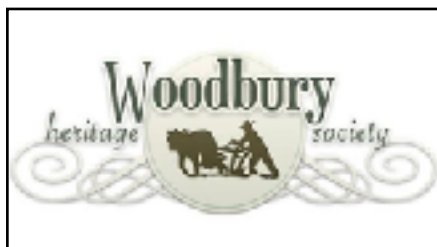
June 23
July 14, 28
August 11, 25
September 8, 22

The house is open from 1 to 4 PM.

Come and visit!



Joyce Flynn promoted the Le Diner en Blanc at the Woodbury Expo. We had a successful exposition telling people about the Woodbury Heritage Society!



8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Woodbury Heritage Society

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please check appropriate line)

____ \$15 per individual (Annual Dues for the Calendar Year)

____ Additional Gift

Donations are tax deductible

Send application & check or money order to:

Woodbury Heritage Society
Dick Fields, Membership Chair
City Hall
8301 Valley Creek Road



Volksmarching: Germany's Favorite Sport

A bit of History by: **Margaret Wachholz**

One of the things that I miss most about Germany is Volksmarching. “Volksmarch” or “People’s Walk” has its origins after the end of WWII. Originally it was part of a mass culture movement to help Germans keep in shape. It was a great way to encourage public health by getting people to enjoy the outdoors in a non-competitive manner, as well as to contribute toward peace and understanding between people and nations by fostering friendship through Volkssports. Volkssports (walking, swimming, skiing, snow shoeing and biking) became very popular with the American military personnel that were stationed in Germany at that time. Veterans returning to the United States wanted to continue these walks when they came home.

When we lived in Germany, we joined villagers around the country on most weekends and walked with people of the parishes. My incentive to join in was the achievement awards after the 5k, 10k or 20k walks. Not only this, there was the true bonus at the end of the walks - the village celebrated with dancers, live traditional music, refreshments and food that followed. Awards consisted of a pin, a beer stein or a village plaque of the village that hosted. My husband and I have accumulated quite the collection. But, best of all, in keeping with German Volksmarch tradition, is the connection with the community through walking, eating and merriment. It was a fine way to experience truly a magnificent heritage and rich culture.

The fare in the afternoons at Volksmarching consisted of brats, liverwurst, jaegerschnitzel, warm potato salad and red cabbage. Below is one of those recipes.

In St. Paul, on 8th & 9th June, there will be Deutsche Tage (German Days). The Germanic-American Institute says this is the longest-running ethnic festival in the Twin Cities. It starts with a cannon blast, and there’s food, music and a morning bike ride. The German-American Institute is at 301 Summit Avenue in St. Paul: Go to gai-mn.org to learn more.



Beer-braised Bratwursts with Slaw

Recipe by: **Margaret Wachholz**

A tangy cabbage and carrot slaw is a knockout topping for juicy bratwursts. Long pretzel rolls make an unexpected substitute for the hoagie rolls. Serves: 4

Ingredients for the slaw:

1 cup very thinly sliced red cabbage
1/4 cup mayonnaise
3 Tbs. pickle brine (from a jar of pickles, preferably dill)
4 tsp. cider vinegar
2 tsp. granulated sugar
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
2-1/2 cups very thinly sliced green cabbage
1/2 cup grated carrots
1/4 cup finely chopped white onion

Ingredients for the bratwursts:

2 12-oz. bottles lager beer, such as Budweiser
4 uncooked bratwursts
1 cup chopped white onion
4 Tbs. unsalted butter, melted
2 Tbs. spicy brown mustard, such as Gulden's
Vegetable oil for brushing
4 hoagie rolls, split but not all the way through

Make the slaw:

Soak the red cabbage in a bowl of ice water for 15 minutes to prevent its color from bleeding. Drain and pat dry. In a large bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, pickle brine, vinegar, sugar, 1/4 tsp. salt, and a grind of pepper. Add the red and green cabbage, carrot, and onion and toss well to combine. Refrigerate for 2 to 4 hours.

Make the bratwursts:

In a 10- to 11-inch skillet, combine the beer, bratwursts, and onion. Add enough water to barely cover the bratwursts and bring just to a simmer over medium heat. Cover, remove from the heat, and let sit for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, position a rack about 4 inches from the broiler and heat the broiler on high. In a small bowl, combine the butter, mustard, and 4 tsp. of the bratwurst-cooking liquid; set aside. Arrange the bratwursts on a broiler pan and lightly brush them with oil. Broil until golden brown, turning once, about 4 minutes total. Transfer to a plate. Put the buns on a baking sheet cut sides up and broil until lightly toasted, about 30 seconds. Spread the insides of the buns with the butter mixture and put the bratwursts in the rolls. Top with the slaw and serve.

There's a small wood in the middle of the
Bailey's Arbor development I live in that I
walk my dogs in. I call it:

The Shadow-wood

I walk down to the Shadow-wood
To see the trees tower over me.
The leaves that sigh in twilight's hood
Bear forth the breeze's melody.

This wood speaks softly to my soul
As I gaze into its tattered shade.
Disparate parts that seek the whole
Are out upon her altar laid.

The undergrowth is far too deep
To let me walk within its walls,
And so I choose to let it sleep,
And keep dark secrets in its halls.

The great orb sets, the light now fades
Into the mysteries of the night.
The somber woodland soon persuades
The shadows to consume my sight.

And so I set my feet for home,
At peace with nature's harmonies.
Another time, again I'll roam
To seek the solace of the trees.

Carl James Anderson



Getting to know the Woodbury Heritage Board

Director: Mr. Richard "Dick" Fields.

Dick was appointed in 2014 to the Board. Dick and Mrs. Fields are Woodbury residents since 1964! Dick spent his career with 3M. Starting in 1960 as a research chemist, Dick moved into research and business management. He was elected to 3M's Carleton Society, which is the corporate technical Hall of Fame. Dick also served as associate professor at the University of Minnesota Dental Materials Department from 1991 to 2005.

Mayor Orville Bielenberg appointed Dick to serve on Woodbury's first park board. The board, which was formed in the 1960's, named the existent parks with the Native-American names they have still today.

Dick & Mary Fields settled into the Woodbury Heights Addition over fifty years ago. Their children went through the District 833 school system, graduating from Park High and Woodbury High when that was built. Their children are Richard, Jr.; Patti Scott; Karen Anderson; and Jeffrey. They have seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren!

Dick and his family bring wonderful history and wisdom to our Board!

Caden Hill debuts his Game Box at Heritage House Opening

The Woodbury Eagle Scout created a game box for the Heritage House. The box contains parts for four historical games that visitors can play. The games are: Rolling hoops, Game of Graces (a hoop and stick catching game), Kubb (knocking over blocks with thrown sticks), and Potato sack races. Caden was there to show kids how to play the games in the box!



I was able to visit the Heritage House at the corner of Radio Drive and Lake Road on Sunday, the 9th of June.

I got to talk to Caden and he showed me how to throw the hoop for the Game of Graces. It is a fun game!

I enjoyed seeing this historical house and all the memorabilia and pictures inside. It gives you insights into how life was lived in those prairie days, and brought up memories of my own grandparents.

